

Message Text

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70

ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CPR-01 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

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----- 035111

R 141509Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO USMISSION USBERLIN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

SECSTATE WASHDC 7991

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABUD, GW

SUBJECT: RELIEF FROM VALUE ADDED TAX

REF: (A) BERLIN 5212, (B) BONN 02046, (C) BERLIN 5153

1. EMBASSY BONN CONSULTED FURTHER WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIALS CONCERNING MEANS OF OBTAINING AMEMBASSY BERLIN'S EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF MEHRWERTS-TEUER ON GOODS PURCHASED IN WEST BERLIN. MINRAT KLEZATH OF THE MINISTRY'S TAX DEPARTMENT THOUGHT THAT A VARIATION ON HIS SUGGESTION, CONTAINED REFTEL (B), ALSO OFFERED A POSSIBLE AVENUE OF TAX RELIEF. HE SAID THAT THE USUAL STATEMENT MADE BY THE USMISSION BERLIN TO OBTAIN TAX REFUNDS COULD BE WORDED TO THE EFFECT THAT "THE PURCHASE WAS FOR THE USE OF THE US GOVERNMENT." IN THIS WAY THE PROBLEM RAISED BY EMBASSY BERLIN IN REFTEL C COULD BE SURMOUNTED.

2. ANOTHER OFFICIAL IN THE MINISTRY, MINRAT DR. BERKENHEIDE. ALSO SAW THE FORE-GOING AS A POSSIBLE SOLUTION, BUT THOUGHT, PROBABLY FOR BUREAUCRATIC PROTOCOL PURPOSES AND GIVEN BERLIN'S SPECIAL STATUS, THAT IT SHOULD BE RAISED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENATOR FOR FINANCE IN BERLIN. HE SUGGESTED THAT

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REGIERUNGS DIREKTOR GROSSKOPF OF THAT OFFICE

BE APPROACHED ON THIS POSSIBILITY. HE FURTHER STATED THAT IN SUCH AN APPROACH REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE FACT THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE EMBASSY WITH BERKENHEIDE AND KLEZATH IN THE MINISTRY AND THAT IF GROSSKOPF HAD ANY PROBLEMS HE SHOULD CONTACT HIM FOR CLARIFICATION. HE INFERRED THAT HE WOULD BE HELPFUL SHOULD HIS FURTHER INTERVENTION BE REQUIRED AS IN THE CASE OF THE MATTER NOT BEING SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED AT THE BERLIN LEVEL.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE MISSION CONTACT GROSSKOPF ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSIST EMBASSY BERLIN AND TO OBTAIN FOR THE US GOVERNMENT THE SAVINGS ON PROCUREMENT INVOLVED.

4. BERKENHEIDE IMPLIED THAT THE 6 PERCENT LEVY ON INTERZONAL TRADE ANGLE WAS BEING UTILIZED BY SOME EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN AND COULD THEREFORE BE APPLICABLE IN OUR CASE. HE FURTHER SAID THAT IT MAY EVENTUALLY BE MADE REFUNDABLE FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN EAST GERMANY, BUT THIS IS ONLY IN THE DISCUSSION STAGE AND WAS A LONG WAY FROM IMPLEMENTATION.
HILLENBRAND

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